Toxics Cleanup Program

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Program Mission

To get and keep contaminants out of the environment.

Environmental Threats

The agency has identified over 9,500 contaminated sites in Washington. Roughly 6,000 of these are the result of an underground storage tank leaking into the environment and contaminating the soil and/or ground water.

Contamination at each site is unique and can pose a different type and level of risk to public health and the environment. For example:

- Soils contaminated by arsenic and covering several miles have been discovered in school playgrounds, parks, and backyards, as well as at industrial facilities.
- Fish and shellfish living near chemically contaminated sediments can retain toxins in their system and expose people to toxins when eaten. Contaminated sediments can also contribute to declining fish populations.
- Contamination can affect drinking water sources and exposes people to chemicals in the water they drink and use at home.

We know cleaning up contaminated sites protects human health and the environment. It's also important to note that restoring contaminated property and putting it back into productive use preserves undeveloped lands and preserves further decline of state resources such as fish and shellfish habitat.

Authorizing Laws

- *Chapter 70.105D RCW, Model Toxics Control Act*
- *Chapter 90.76 RCW, Underground Storage Tanks*
- *Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control Act*
- *Chapter 90.71 RCW, Puget Sound Water Quality Protection*

Constituents/Interested Parties

An important element of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is including the public and other interested parties throughout the process of cleaning up contaminated sites and developing new initiatives. The agency continues to build partnerships among government, industry, and citizens. Constituents interested in cleaning up contaminated sites include:

- *The Legislature*
- *State, Federal, and Local Governments*
- *Conservation and Environmental Groups*
- *Business and Individuals engaged in the cleanup of Contaminated Sites*
- *Ports*
- *Insurance Companies*
- *Tribes*

Contaminated Site Cleanup Constituents also include:

- *Lenders, Developers, Realtors*
- *Owners of Contaminated Sites*
- *Water Purveyors*
- *Citizens interested in, living near, or affected by Contaminated Sites*

Underground Storage Tanks Constituents also include:

- *Tank Owners/Operators*
- *Homes and Businesses affected by leaking underground storage tanks*
- *Petroleum Companies*
- *Underground Storage Tank Service Providers*

Major Activities and Results

Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Upland)

The agency protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated sites. Resources are first focused on cleaning up contaminated sites that pose the greatest risk to public health and the environment. These include sites where contamination threatens drinking water, exists in a large quantity, is very toxic, may affect a water body, or may affect people that are living, working, or recreating near the site. Contamination may be in the soil, sediments, underground water, air, drinking water, and/or surface water. The clean up of these sites protects public health, safeguards the environment, and promotes local economic development by making land available for new industries and other beneficial uses. (Authorizing laws - 70.105D, 90.48, and 90.71 RCW)

Result
The most highly contaminated sites are cleaned up, public and environmental health is protected, and sites are ready for redevelopment and job creation.

- Increase the number of sites cleaned up by over 3% annually (includes sites cleaned up voluntarily).
- Increase the number of sites with clean up actions in progress.
- Decrease the number of sites that are awaiting clean up.

Clean the Worst Contaminated Sites First (Aquatic)
The agency protects public health and natural resources by cleaning up and managing contaminated sediments in the aquatic environment. This includes addressing the environmental health of aquatic sediments in source control permits, managing sediment standards and regulations, and maintaining a sediment information database. The agency also manages multi-agency sediment cleanup projects. The cleanup of contaminated aquatic sediments reduces toxic contamination in fish and protects the aquatic environment. (Authorizing laws - 70.105D, 90.48, and 90.71 RCW)

Bellingham Bay Site

Result
The most highly contaminated marine sediments are cleaned up and managed to minimize public health and environmental impacts.

- Increase the number of acres remediated (cleaned up and managed) by 80 over the 2003-05 biennium.
- Increase the sediment acreage evaluated for source control, cleanup, or constructive purposes.

Manage Underground Storage Tanks to Minimize Releases
The agency currently regulates 11,189 active tanks on 4,074 different properties, including gas stations, industries, commercial properties, and governmental entities. This includes working to ensure that tanks are installed, managed, and monitored in accordance with federal standards and in a manner that prevents releases into the environment. This is done through compliance inspections and providing technical assistance to tank owners and operators. Properly managing such tanks saves millions in clean up costs and prevents contamination of limited drinking water and other ground water resources. (Authorizing law - 90.76 RCW)

Result
Underground storage tanks are properly installed, monitored and/or decommissioned to minimize the release of oil, gas, and other toxic materials into drinking water and other underground water sources.

- Decrease the number of reported releases from underground storage tanks over time.
- Increase the number of leaking underground storage sites that are cleaned up or considered "No Further Action."
- Increase the percentage of underground storage tanks inspected that pass operational compliance for leak detection.

Services to Site Owners that Volunteer to Clean up their Contaminated Sites
The agency provides services to site owners or operators who initiate clean up of their contaminated sites. Voluntary clean ups can be conducted in a variety of ways: completely independent of the agency; independent with some agency assistance or review; or with agency oversight under a signed legal agreement (an agreed order or a consent decree). They may be done through consultations, prepayment agreements, prospective purchaser agreements,

and brownfields redevelopment. Carrying out the voluntary cleanup program facilitates overall clean up efforts by encouraging site owners to initiate and complete site cleanup. It also minimizes the need to have public funding used for such clean up, and promotes local economic development through new industries and other beneficial uses of cleaned properties. (Authorizing laws - 70.105D, 90.48, and 90.71 RCW)

Result
Contaminated sites are voluntarily cleaned up by site owners and prospective buyers using private funding.

- Increase the number of sites voluntarily cleaned up.
- Increase the number of sites with cleanup actions in progress.
- Decrease the number of sites that are awaiting cleanup.
- Increase the number of determinations made on final clean up reports submitted by parties who voluntarily cleaned up sites.

Major Issues

Area-wide Contamination
The agency is continuing to find low to moderate levels of soil contamination dispersed over large geographic areas in the state. The contamination is from historical activities, is primarily arsenic, and includes lead. These areas are distinct from more typical clean up sites because they cover several hundred acres to many square miles and generally have lower contaminant levels. As Washington's population has grown and economic conditions have changed, many of these areas are being developed into neighborhoods, schools, and parks. These activities have created pressures for clean up and raised a variety of health, environmental, and marketplace concerns.

Lake Roosevelt
Lake Roosevelt is the largest reservoir by volume in the state of Washington. The lake extends 150 miles from the Grand Coulee Dam to the U.S.-Canadian border. The reservoir is bordered by Stevens, Ferry, Grant, Okanogan, and Lincoln counties, as well as the Colville and the Spokane Indian reservations.

Metals such as zinc, cadmium, lead, copper, and mercury have been released into the reservoir and are present in the sediments at significant and toxic concentrations. Studies have also shown these metals are found in fish at elevated levels, high enough to post health advisories around the lake.

Everett Smelter Clean Up
Contaminated soils cover nearly 700 acres in a residential/commercial area. Human exposure to lead and arsenic is known to cause illnesses, including severe neurological injuries and several forms of cancer.

Since 1990, the Department of Ecology has been committed to cleaning up homes near the former Asarco Smelter site in Everett and has completed the clean up of 47 homes. In addition, the agency has ordered Asarco to clean up the most contaminated portion of the site. A recent injunction by the Snohomish County Superior Court is compelling the company to clean up the most contaminated sites by October 30, 2004.

Tacoma Smelter Plume
Air emissions from the former Asarco Ruston smelter have contaminated 200 to 300 square miles, primarily urban land in portions of King, Pierce, and Kitsap counties, including Vashon and Maury islands in King County. The plume covers tens of thousands of residential, commercial, and industrial properties, leaving behind elevated arsenic and lead in the surface soils. The sheer size of the area and the number of diverse communities within it call for a unique approach to clean up, requiring a sophisticated, flexible, and adaptive management plan and implementation strategy.

Spokane River
The Spokane River is the site of intensive agency attention. In addition to being a primary recreational resource and the natural centerpiece of the Spokane area, the River's water interacts directly with the area's sole-source drinking-water aquifer. Historic mining activities in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin of Idaho have washed metals downstream, contaminating surface water, sediments, macroinvertibrates, and fish in the Spokane River. A health advisory issued in the summer of 1999 continues to warn the public about specific locations along the beach where there are elevated levels of lead and arsenic in the soils.

Camp Bonneville
The Camp Bonneville Military Reservation site is northeast of the city of Vancouver. It is one of two sites in the state with active unexploded ordnance

(UXO) clean ups at them. The site has received a high amount of attention due to Clark County and the Department of the Army negotiations for an agreement to execute an "early transfer" of the property to the county. These negotiations are now on hold. In February of 2003, the Department of Ecology issued an Enforcement Order. This order will provide more certainty for Clark County during continued property transfer discussions. Clean up work is progressing and a contract has been issued for the removal of the landfill at the site.

Former Pacific Wood Treating Site (at the Port of Ridgefield)

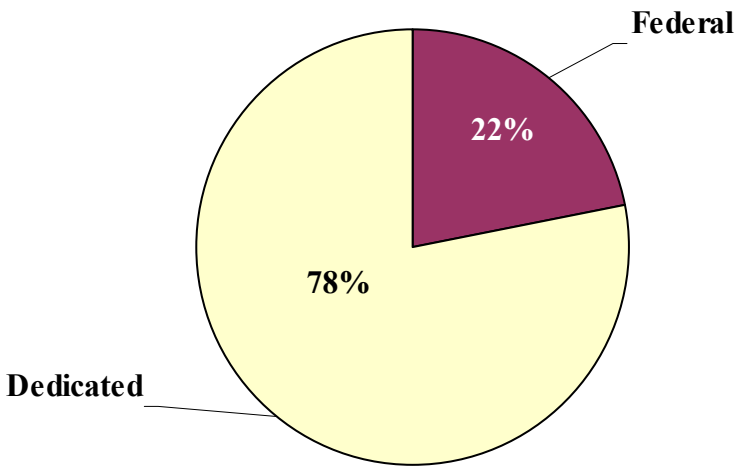
A National Wildlife Refuge, Lake River, and the town of Ridgefield border the 41-acre Port of Ridgefield property. A former port tenant (bankrupt in 1993) contaminated the site with wood treating chemicals. The contamination has been found in ground water under the Port and Refuge and in Lake River sediments. The cost of this clean up has been estimated at $40 to $50 million dollars. The Department Ecology has provided funding to expedite the cleanup and build and run the first phase of the treatment system. The Port of Ridgefield is committed to maintaining and keeping the system operational.

Toxics Cleanup Program Budget

Budget: $30,482,590; Staffing: 139.4 FTEs

Federal	($) Amount	Sources	Uses
General Fund – Federal	6,690,611	Federal Grants	Grants funds received from EPA and Dept. of Defense for cleanup at National Priorities List sites and federal Superfund sites at military facilities and technical assistance/cleanup related to leaking underground storage tanks.
Dedicated Funds			
State Toxics Control Account	17,543,477	Hazardous substance tax; recovered remedial actions and penalties collected	Clean up toxic sites, investigate and rank new toxic sites, prepayment cleanup, technical assistance, site information management, and natural resource damage assessment.
State Toxics Control Account – Private/Local	305,543	Recovered LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) dollars from Federal Grants.	Activities related to the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks.
State Underground Storage Tank Account	2,382,416	Annual tank fees	Pollution prevention, inspection, and permitting activities related to underground storage tanks.
Worker/Community Right to Know Account	1,511,134	Hazardous Material Manufacturing	Public information compilation and dissemination.
Local Toxics Control Account	1,045,237	Hazardous Substance Tax	Technical assistance, oversight, and administration of the Local Toxics Control Account Remedial Action Grant Program.
Water Quality Permit Account	1,004,172	Fees on Wastewater Discharge	Sediment source control
TOTAL	**$30,482,590**		

Toxics Cleanup Program
Dollars by Fund Source



Toxics Cleanup Program
Dollars by Activity